

PHYSA AND BULINUS OF MAURITIUS

BY WILLIAM J. CLENCH

A radula examination of *Physa borbonica* Fér. (M.C.Z. 79129) from Mauritius establishes this species as a true *Physa* and not a *Bulinus*. Diagnostic characters of the shells are not certain with the majority of these forms, and all the so-called species of *Physa* from Africa, Asia and the Indo-Pacific region must first be examined anatomically to be absolutely certain of their generic position. Though first described from Reunion (Bourbon), this species is now known also from Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Sganzin also employed the name *borbonica* for this species from the same locality, Bourbon, not being aware that Férussac had described it several years before under the same name. The synonymy of this species is as follows:

Physa borbonica Fér.

- 1827 *Physa borbonica* Férussac, Bull. Sci. Indus. Vol. 10, p. 408. (Bourbon.)
 1838 ——— *nana* Potiez et Michaud, Galerie des Mollusques, Paris. Vol. 1, pl. 22, fig. 17-18, p. 225. Mauritius.
 1842 ——— *borbonica* Sganzin, Mem. Soc. Nat. Hist. Strasbourg. Vol. 3, pt. 2, p. 18. (Bourbon.)
 1869 ——— *seychellana* E. v. Martens, (in) Reisen in Ost-Afrika, 1857-1865, von C. C. Von der Decken. Vol. 3, pl. 2, fig. 3, p. 60. (Seychelles.)
 1880 ——— *borbonica* Fér. E. v. Martens, Mollusken Mauritius u. Seychellen, p. 209.

E. v. Martens (Mollusken Mauritius u. Seychellen, 1880, p. 210) places *Bulinus cernicus* (Morelet) in the synonymy of *Isidora¹ forskali* (Ehren). Cotypes of Morelet's species (M.C.Z. 79127) are certainly differentiated enough from the typical form as to warrant its retention as a variety. The synonymy would be as follows.

Bulinus forskalii cernicus (Morelet)

- 1867 *Physa cernica* Morelet, Journ. de Conch. Vol. 15, p. 440. (Mauritius.)
 1880 *Isidora forskalii* Ehren. E. v. Martens, Mollusken Mauritius u. Seychellen, p. 210.

SPHAERIUM SCOPOLI; SULCASTRUM, NEW SUBGENUS,
 AND S. FALLAX, NEW SPECIES

BY V. STERKI

S. sulcatum Lam. holds a peculiar position. It has been grouped with the subgenus *Cyrenastrum* Bgt., i. e. with *solidum* Normand and most of the nearctic Sphaeria. S. Clessin, in his monograph of the "Cycladeen", 1879, placed it under the subgenus *Sphaeriastrum* Bgt. with *S. rivicola* Leach. It is remote from both groups, and represents a subgenus for which the name *Sulcastrum* is proposed. The differences are mainly in the surface sculpture, constant in all of its forms, and wanting in all other Sphaeria. It is densely, microscopically rugulose, dullish all over; the striae, or costulae, are fine, sharp, crowded, regular to subregular; also, the nepionic young are considerably larger. All of this could mean just specific differences; but, with a great amount of material at hand, it appears that *sulcatum* is not only a species very variable, but a group: there are some forms constantly different and distinct, ergo species. Two have been described: *S. crassum*, in the NAUTILUS XIV, p. 140, 1901, and *S. lineatum*, ibidem, XXIII, p. 142, 1910; another is described below.

Sphaerium fallax, n. sp., differs from *sulcatum* as follows: The beaks are more anterior, broad; anterior margin r. abrupt to subtruncate, the posterior part markedly

¹ See Pilsbry & Bequaert, 1927. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. Vol. 53, p. 133, for a complete statement relative to the status of *Isidora* and *Bulinus*.